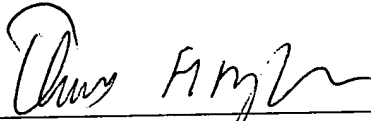


RESPONSE

Pursuant to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement of October 3, 2003 received in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Invention I drawn to a delivery sheath for consideration on the merits. Additionally, Applicants elect Species 6, FIG. 3C pursuant to the Election of Species requirement. Currently, claims 1-5, 7, 8, 15, 18-21 and 29-35 are readable on Species 6. In view of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement, Applicants have withdrawn claims 6, 9-14, 16, 17, 22-28, and 36-48 for consideration at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

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